

\*\*\*\*\*Draft\*\*\*\*\*

**Weare Open Space Committee**  
Minutes of March 24, 2009

Members attending: Steve Najjar, George Malette, Pat Myers.  
Guests: Andy Fulton, Waere Conservation Commission Chair.

Chairman Najjar called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting were reviewed. No changes or corrections were found.

George made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Pat seconded the motion. Steve called for the vote. George and Pat yes and Steve abstained.

Hawkes update– Steve gave a brief update on the prospects of protecting an additional 30± acre lot, abutting the recently protected Hawkes parcel, which Shawn Hawkes has been able to acquire. Steve has determined that the Conservation Fund does indeed have a balance that will cover the town's costs for a conservation easement on this additional parcel.

Land Contacts – We reviewed the list as far as active or inactive contacts.

Currently Inactive contacts:

- **Pinard** – The landowners responded to our last contact, that they were not interested in pursuing an easement at this time. This property is near the Perkins Pond NHF&G Wildlife Protection Area.
- **Cleaves** - After several attempts by letter, no one has been able to contact this land owner who originally wrote to us in response to a WOSC letter to landowners. This property is in the south west corner of town.
- **Silvia Pope** – Steve has tried repeatedly to set a date for a site walk to no avail. The owner has been unable to move forward with protection plans with either PLC or the WOSC.
- **Fred Shadduck** – We sent the “Out of funds” letter in January, which was returned by the Post Office with a forwarding address in Mont Vernon. Mr Shadduck had been trying to sell his property. This property is on Rt 149.
- **Alma Schmidt / Ray Banks** – Mr. Banks has been our contact in this case. The price he has mentioned is far above what the Conservation Fund or voters could handle at this time. The soils are not the same Ag soils found on the Brown's land down the road, so would not be eligible for FRPP funding. This land is on East Street.
- **Steiner** – Mr. Steiner did not respond to the last couple phone messages from Andrea and Pat. This property is on Colby Road. An “Out of funds” letter was sent to the Steiners in January 2009.

Active Contacts:

- **Dot O'Neil** – George indicated that she is still interested and is willing to wait. A site walk was done but no appraisal. She received our “Out of funds” letter in January. This land is on Maplewald Rd.
- **Lauretta Phillips** – Pat shared the notes from her phone conversation with Ms. Phillips. Lauretta has expressed interest but also mentioned a very high price. We will bring this up in next month's WCC meeting to see if there is still interest in doing a site walk. This parcel is within the Dustin Brook Headwaters area.
- **Melvin Farm** – The Popes (who own the Kingsbury property) have purchased the land and are going for FRPP to protect the fields. Ian McSweeney had said FRPP grants require 25% matching local funds. The time frame for the grant is March 2010.

New Landowner Contact letter for 2009 – George suggested that this might be a time to send a new letter to landowners indicating the town's continued interest in protecting land for conservation and open

space. The letter might mention the other available protection methods besides purchase by the town. There was brief discussion but no action taken.

Open Space Plan – George reported that Sherry Burdick was able to convert the PDF copy of the plan to a word doc, although still poor quality. George and Pat remain interested in working on an update. George pointed out that the need for an update will become more obvious when the NRI is ready.

By-Laws – By-Laws were reviewed at this Open Space Committee annual meeting. WOSC by-laws are not stand-alone, but are incorporated into the WCC by-laws. Discussion concluded that this was appropriate. Steve pointed out that the by-laws state that the WOSC's mission is very specifically to acquire conservation lands and easements, and that he would like to see it remain focused in this way. Pat acknowledged that this approach has worked well but suggested that since land acquisition is slowed by the lack of funds, that this might be a good time for the WOSC to reorganize the stewardship effort for the town's conserved land, which has fallen by the wayside in recent years. After some discussion it was decided that WOSC will remain focused on land acquisition and that stewardship was an issue for WCC meetings.

Officers for 2009 –

- ✓ Steve volunteered and was accepted as the WOSC Chair. All voted in favor of him continuing in this capacity.
- ✓ George volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. All voted in favor.
- ✓ Pat volunteered to serve as Secretary. All voted in favor.

Members – Steve had sent an email to all who have served on the WOSC asking people to indicate whether they wished to remain part of the committee. He reported having received affirmative replies from George and Pat and that Andy had replied that he would serve as an alternate but could not regularly attend meetings. Sherry Burdick cannot serve at this time. Jean Heineman had not replied. These 2 names will be removed from the roster. Steve mentioned possibly putting a notice on the cable channel calling for volunteers.

Andy Fulton – stopped in to see whether Pete Ingraham or Chris Kane would be coming to discuss NRI questions after the Open Space meeting. Pat said that she had told Pete that another time would have to be scheduled. Andy suggested that they be invited to the April WCC meeting. He said he would call K&I in the meantime and ask that they present the data files underlying the maps using a laptop, so that the WCC members can satisfy all concerns before the NRI is completed.

Tasks - Steve asked the secretary to contact the WCC Chair to request 5 minutes or so on the April meeting agenda to discuss Open Space Committee issues such as the Phillips property, 2009 WOSC officers and members, and the possibility of having Cartographics update the digitized tax map.

There being no further discussion, Pat made the motion to adjourn. George 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all voted yes and the meeting ended at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Myers  
WOSC Secretary

Cc: Town Clerk, BOS, Merry Rice, WOSC files